

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 15-16 in the above mentioned Office Action.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing the “radially symmetrical lateral resistance.” Applicant respectfully disagrees. Even though Fig. 1 does not show that the resistance area 9 is inhomogeneous, it still shows the above feature. Fig. 1 clearly shows the radius starting with the center point on the left side and extending to the right side. Thus, a person skilled in the art readily recognizes the circular shape of the device and is, thus, able without the need of a perspective drawing to see the ring structures formed, for example, by the resistance region 9. Moreover, the inhomogeneity of the resistance area is shown in exemplary embodiments of this region in Figs. 2 and 3. Thus, Applicant believes that no amendment to the drawings are necessary.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ruff et al.(US 6,066,864 hereinafter, Ruff). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Independent claims 1 and 12 include limitations neither disclosed nor suggested by Ruff.

The Examiner stated that even though Ruff does not explicitly teach a radius independent constant resistance of the resistance region the region as disclosed by Ruff would implied because Ruff shows the same embodiment as the present application. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Even though Fig. 1 of the present invention shows a similar device compared to the device as shown in Fig. 1 of Ruff, the specification clearly states on page 10, line 2-5 that the feature of a location independent resistance is not shown in Fig. 1. However, as explained above, Figs. 2 and 3 show different embodiments of the present invention which achieve such a location independent resistance.

A ring shaped resistance region such as shown in Ruff does not comprise a constant resistant value along the radius. The resistance of such a structure is only constant with

respect to a constant radius, e.g. along a circular line. However, the resistance region has a different resistance value along the radius of the region due to the increasing cross sectional area with increasing radius. The present invention claims, however, a radially symmetrical lateral resistance incorporated within a semiconductor body which has a radius independent resistance. Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 show exemplary embodiments of how to achieve such a structure. As can be seen, there is plurality of different ways to modify such a resistance region to achieve this as disclosed in the different embodiments of the present application. Therefore, Applicant believes that the independent claim 1 is not anticipated by the prior art.

The dependent claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims. Thus, these claims are at least patentable to the extent of the independent claims to which they refer. The Examiner indicated the possible allowance of claims 5-14. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this possible allowance. However, as explained above, Applicant believes that the prior art does not anticipate the present invention.

SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested. Early notice of the allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the agent of record by telephone or facsimile. If there are any fees due with the filing of this Response, including any fees for an extension of time, Applicants respectfully Petition the Commissioner for such an extension and direct that any and all fees be charged to Baker Botts L.L.P., Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (*formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.*,) Order Number 074313.0106.

Date: January 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. (023640)

By: 

Andreas H. Grubert

(Limited recognition 37 C.F.R. §10.9)

One Shell Plaza

910 Louisiana Street

Houston, Texas 77002-4995

Telephone: 713.229.1964

Facsimile: 713.229.7764

AGENT FOR APPLICANTS